

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 232.

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Published Monthly.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Through the kindness of Miss E. W. Austin, the **Twenty-second Annual Meeting** will be held at the **National Library for the Blind**, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W., at 7.30 p.m., on **Wednesday, June 13th**. The Library is just behind the Church House, and is easily accessible from all parts of London.

There having been no ballot for the Council the following members will be declared elected:—

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL, 1917-1918.

President: J. FREDERICK HOGG, Battersea Public Libraries.

Vice-President: MISS ETHEL GERARD, Worthing Public Library.

Honorary Treasurer: W. GEO. CHAMBERS, Woolwich Public Libraries.

Honorary Secretary: WM. BENSON THORNE, Poplar Public Libraries.

COUNCIL.

LONDON MEMBERS.

*BOLTON, G. R. (Stoke
Newington)
BULLEN, R. F. (Poplar)
*COOPER, R. (Battersea)
DARLING, MISS E. M. (Chelsea)
DAY, MISS M. E. (London
School of Economics)
DUMENIL, MISS R. L. (Hackney)
HAWKINS, W. G. (Fulham)
REES, E. G. (Westminster)
SMITH, H. (Bishopsgate
Institute)

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*OWEN, W. E. (Leamington)
*PEPPER, F. W. C. (Birmingham)
REES, MISS G. (Tottenham)
SHARP, H. A. (Croydon)
STROTHER, G. W. (Leeds)
SURETIES, H. G. (Hornsey)
TRELIVING, N. (Leeds)
*WALKER, J. E. (Tottenham)
*WARNER, J. (Croydon)

*YOUNG, J. D. (Greenwich)

* On active service.

The proceedings will include the adoption of the Twenty-second Annual Report, as printed in this issue of the Journal, with an address by the incoming President to be followed by a discussion thereupon.

To conclude, there will be, as already announced, a **pianoforte recital** by MR. HARRY V. SPANNER, MUS. BAC., F.R.C.O., Music Librarian to the National Library for the Blind.

It is hoped that members will make an effort to attend and to bring with them friends who may be interested in the work of the Association.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Nominations for Officers and Committee for the ensuing year should be sent to the Acting Honorary Secretary not later than June 9th.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the South Coast Branch will be held, by kind permission of Mr. H. D. Roberts, at the Brighton Public Library, on Wednesday, July 11th.

By kind invitation of the Brighton Staff, tea will be served to members at the Library at 4.15 p.m.

The Annual Open Business Meeting will take place at 5 p.m., and will be followed at 6 p.m. by an Entertainment in the Permanent Gallery, arranged and given by the Pink Poms Costume Concert Party, to which wounded soldiers from the Pavilion and York Place Hospitals will be invited.

Members intending to be present are requested to send their names to the Acting Honorary Secretary not later than July 7th.

ETHEL GERARD,

Acting Honorary Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

The New President.—Every member of the Association will agree that Mr. J. Frederick Hogg, of the Battersea Public Libraries, has fully earned the honour of being elected to the Presidential chair of the L.A.A. Mr. Hogg is one of the original members of the Association, and has served faithfully as a member of the Council from its very early days. He has read several papers before the Association, and his long experience in public library work has brought him into touch with librarians and assistants from all over the country. We sincerely wish him a very successful year of office, and are convinced that all members will support Mr. Hogg to the utmost of their ability.

The New Vice-President.—The election of Miss Ethel Gerard, Sub-Librarian of the Worthing Public Library, to the vice-presidency of the Association will receive the cordial endorsement of all our readers, especially of those who are

familiar with her work in connection with the South Coast Branch, of which she has been the Honorary Treasurer since its foundation in 1912. For some time past it has also devolved almost entirely upon Miss Gerard to preserve the threads of the Branch intact by keeping in touch with all its members who are on active service. The accession of a woman to one of the highest offices in the professional Associations is particularly opportune at this time when so many women are being brought into the profession. As a result of Miss Gerard's occupancy of the vice-presidency, we shall look forward to seeing a much keener interest evinced by women in things pertaining to the profession in general and to the L.A.A. in particular. We should particularly like to draw the attention of readers to an important paper by Miss Gerard printed in *The Library Assistant* for Aug.-Sept., 1912, entitled "Librarianship from a Woman Assistant's Point of View."

The Reunions.—These very pleasant and helpful functions came to a close for the present session last month. The attendance at some of these informal gatherings has not been numerically large, but they have served an extremely useful purpose by providing a regular opportunity for library workers to gather together for social intercourse, and have, further, given facilities for the discussion of many topics of current interest to the profession. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. MacAlister for allowing us to meet at Wimpole Street, and for providing everything that could be desired to make these gatherings so inviting. We trust that before the autumn comes round the War will be over, and that it will be possible to arrange a definite programme of meetings, but if not, we sincerely hope that Mr. MacAlister will see his way to arrange a similar series of gatherings.

THE Library Assistants' Association

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT, 1916-17.

The present Report must be regarded as essentially a War-time production, some of the usual features being omitted to economise in labour and space, and to permit insistence on matters of greater importance than mere details of administration.

The Membership of the Association has remained almost stationary; which is scarcely surprising, though the Council

believes there are still many who might support the Association yet refrain from so doing for some reason: their accession to the Membership would be a very great encouragement. Those on active service are still regarded as Honorary Members, and *The Library Assistant* continues to be despatched regularly to them, unless there has been a direct request to the contrary.

At the last Annual Meeting the Council was re-elected *en bloc*, and there have been no changes during the year. The President, Mr. James Ross, of Liverpool, was called to the Colours, and is now serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery, where the best wishes of the Association go out to him with the hope for a safe and speedy return to the more peaceful occupation of Librarianship, from which sphere he is greatly missed. Mr. Evan G. Rees has served the Association faithfully as Vice-President and Chairman of the Council, conducting the proceedings of the latter with punctuality and despatch, while in other directions his unfailing courtesy and interest have been of the greatest possible assistance. At the first Council Meeting it was unanimously resolved to ask Mr. W. Benson Thorne to accept the Honorary Fellowship of the Association in recognition of his long continued services on its behalf. The Association is now further indebted to Mr. Thorne for the zealous manner in which he has carried out his duties as Honorary Secretary during the past year.

Despite the adverse conditions the finances of the Association are in a more hopeful state than at one time seemed possible. This is due very largely to the skilful control exercised by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, to whom the Association is under considerable obligation for so unremittingly carrying out the duties of his office in extremely difficult circumstances. Generous and welcome donations to the funds have been received from that old and staunch friend of the Association—Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, from Mr. Evans Lewin, and from Messrs. R. Cooper, Hugh Smith, and H. Tapley Soper. To each of these the Council has pleasure in placing on record its sincere thanks. A balance sheet is appended as usual.

In the early part of the year under review the Standing Committees were suspended and their business carried on by the full Council. This resulted in the saving of time, as in the main the details were only of the customary routine character. As soon as the Council is in a position to engage in its full activities the former method of procedure will be resumed. The work of the Education Committee practically ceased with the discontinuance of the pre-War method of arranging a Sessional Programme, the monthly meetings having been agreed upon month by month just sufficiently in advance to allow proper

notice to be given. The Library Association having determined not to arrange a Winter Programme the possibility of a joint-Programme such as was carried through in the Winter of 1915-1916 was destroyed, but the Council of this Association resolved unanimously to hold monthly meetings of an informal nature. The first was held by kind permission of Mr. W. C. Plant at the Shoreditch Public Library, and though not largely attended, was extremely successful, strengthening the Council in its belief that the need for meetings was as great, if not greater, than ever. Subsequently, Mr. MacAlister arranged a series of monthly Re-unions at the Royal Society of Medicine for the members and friends of both Associations, and with two exceptions, these were adopted as the Monthly Meetings of the L.A.A. with satisfactory results. The exceptions were made in December, when an exceedingly pleasant gathering was held at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, S.W., and Miss Austin, the very able Librarian and Secretary of that Institution, informally described its work and explained its methods, and in January, when a meeting was arranged at the Central Library for Students, Tavistock Square. The Committee is satisfied that these informal discussions on a variety of library problems have been of great value and is disposed to the view that they might be cultivated with advantage in normal times. The Twenty-First Annual Meeting held, through Mr. C. W. F. Goss's kindness, at the Bishopsgate Institute, E.C., was far from being the imposing ceremony it might have been but for the War. However, it served a useful purpose, and the Presidential address furnished by Mr. Ross was of a distinctly stimulating nature.

In Mr. Henry A. Sharp's capable hands *The Library Assistant* has made its appearance regularly and punctually throughout the year. This is no mean achievement when all the difficulties are taken into consideration. The shortage of paper has necessitated a slight reduction in the number of pages, and the familiar blue-grey cover has had to be replaced by whatever has been available at the moment. The cost of production has materially increased, and the upward tendency unfortunately shows no signs of having reached its limit. No definite statement with regard to the future of the Journal can be made owing to the uncertainty of everything concerned with it, but it is the intention of the Council to continue publication in the present manner so long as conditions permit. The cessation of the ordinary monthly meetings where a paper was read has brought about a scarcity of suitable material for the Journal; this can be overcome, however, and it is unlikely that there will be any falling off in the high standard of interest and usefulness which has been maintained for so many years. At the same time the

Council will welcome the offers of papers and paragraphs on any topic of general interest to Librarianship. The Honorary Editor has made every effort to record the names of those who have left their posts in libraries to join the Colours and there is reason to believe the list is tolerably complete, although without the active co-operation of members and friends in every library absolute completeness in this respect is impossible. An Album of Honour is in process of compilation, which is designed to include a photograph and brief biographical details of all those who are serving in the Army from the libraries of the British Isles and the Overseas Dominions. This is a task of no mean dimensions, but strong endeavour is being made to carry it out worthily, and Mr. MacAlister has rendered magnificent financial assistance in order that the work may not suffer on that account. It is the object of the Council to produce, ultimately, a duplicate volume to be deposited in the Library of the British Museum. Mr. Henry A. Sharp is engaged in collecting and arranging the material, and is receiving valuable help from Mr. F. Bolt, of Penge.

The demands on the Association's Library have naturally slackened, but under Miss Mitchell's careful administration its utility remains and several interesting additions have been made during the year. Members are reminded that all the books sent for review in *The Library Assistant* are afterwards added to the collection; and it may also be said that gifts of suitable volumes, special catalogues, bibliographies, etc., will be gladly welcomed at all times.

The work of the Branches has been sadly handicapped and in some areas has ceased altogether. This is not due to lack of enthusiasm, but is simply the result of inability to continue through practically all the male members having joined the Colours. The West of Scotland Branch has proceeded with the plans it laid down at the beginning of the Winter; the Yorkshire Branch at its Annual Meeting in January after debating whether the operations should be suspended, courageously determined to "carry on," upon which wise decision the Branch members are to be congratulated. The South Coast Branch held an Annual Meeting in July; otherwise the difficulties have been too great to allow meetings, but Miss Gerard has gallantly kept all the threads together and has seen that none of the members in the Army have been neglected, having corresponded with them all. After the War, when all those now away have returned to their posts, the Council confidently looks forward not only to a revival but to a wide extension of the Branch activity in response to the new spirit of re-construction everywhere being demonstrated.

The Council has a sad duty to perform in recording here the names of those who have given their lives in the great cause

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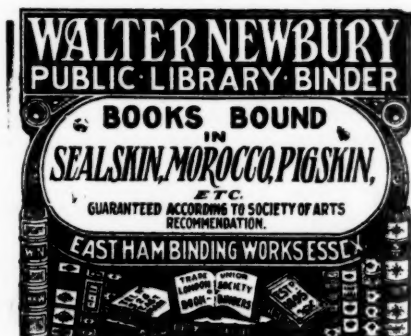
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ALBUM OF HONOUR.

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MR. H. A. SHARP,

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

Library Assistants' Association.

**THE TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL MEETING**

WILL BE HELD AT

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

18, TUFTON STREET, WESTMINSTER,

On WEDNESDAY, 13th JUNE, at 7.30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS.

Adoption of the 22nd Annual Report.

Presidential Address by Mr. J. FREDERICK HOGG.

Pianoforte Recital by Mr. HARRY V. SPANNER, Mus. Bac.
F.R.C.O.

**ALL LIBRARY WORKERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

The Value of Individual Effort.

The Council of the L.A.A. is anxious that every Member and Associate should realize the value of his or her loyalty and support to Librarianship as well as to the Association. In these difficult days the L.A.A., which represents the largest body of library workers in the British Isles, needs the faithful adherence of every Member, and also his or her **ACTIVE CO-OPERATION**.

All Members of whatever grade should consider seriously their relationship to the Association, reflecting as to whether they are doing anything individually to further its interests. Each can do **SOMETHING**; not one is so isolated as to be unable to **ATTEMPT** assistance in some direction. The present times afford especial opportunities for the co-operation of **WOMEN ASSISTANTS**.

Information will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*,
BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD,
POPLAR, LONDON, E.14.

for which the Empire is at War. The list includes the names of men who were of the very highest promise in the realm of Librarianship; their loss is irreparable, and the profession is that much the poorer, but they went willingly, even gladly, and we who remain revere their memory, paying silent tribute to their great sacrifice.

KILLED, OR DIED ON SERVICE.

Anderson (A. R.), Johannesburg.
 Bacon (S.), Stepney.
 Buck (C.), Newcastle.
 Carlisle (A. D.), Port Elizabeth.
 Checketts (H. W.), Birmingham.
 Glenn (F. M.), Walthamstow.
 Hardy (R. T.), Westminster.
 Harradine (F. C.), Poplar.
 Hutcheson (R. H.), Glasgow.
 Johnson (A. B.), Westminster.
 Jordan (A. P.), Newcastle.
 Lester (F.), Walthamstow.
 Lewis (T.), National Library of Wales.
 Mayrick (R. T.), Wandsworth.
 Munday (J. S.), Liverpool.
 Peppiette (E. A.), Liverpool.
 Purkis (H. W.), Westminster.
 Richardson (A.), Lewisham.
 Robson (G.), Newcastle (Literary and Philosophical Inst.).
 Stevenson (H.), Bournemouth.
 Storey (T. B.), Westminster.
 Strachan (D. L.), Leeds.
 Turner (H. J.), Westminster.
 Young (W. B.), Erith.

MISSING.

Garner (P. A.), Birmingham.
 Meakin (F.), Tottenham.
 Newman (E.), London Library.
 Riley (T.), Birmingham.
 Smither (R. E.), Brighton.
 Wilcock (F. N.), Preston.

During the year the Public Library Movement has not been unprogressive: important developments have been made, and there are indications that in the near future new ideals may be set up involving radical changes in the existing state of affairs. The Third Report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust contained references to the need for Training Colleges in Librarianship, and the Council took steps to express to the Trustees its

appreciation of the statements made. Training Colleges are an eminently desirable development, and their early establishment will advance Librarianship to a degree which can hardly be accomplished in any other way. The effect of the Education Scheme recently outlined in the House of Commons will inevitably lead to increased demands upon the Public Library Service: these will only be met satisfactorily by increased organization and higher efficiency, therefore it is incumbent on those in the Library Service now to be steadfastly setting their faces towards the new goal, working quietly but unweariedly for its attainment. The members of this Association should contemplate the situation with all seriousness, for none can tell what call will be made upon them, and the Council trusts that a new enthusiasm will arise to meet the new and untried ways discernible upon the horizon.

The Council wishes to express its gratitude to Mr. MacAlister not only for his generosity, to which reference has already been made, but also for his loyalty to the profession in arranging the monthly re-unions, as well as for his kindness in favouring the Council with the use of a Committee Room in which to conduct its business on a number of occasions. To Miss Austin, of the National Library for the Blind, the Council is deeply indebted for permission to meet at 18, Tufton Street at very frequent intervals; a privilege that can scarcely be over-estimated. Through the kind offices of Mr. H. A. Twort the doors of the Central Library for Students, Tavistock Square, have also been opened to the Association, and the Council desires to place on record its sincere thanks for these favours so cordially bestowed.

Thanks are also due to Mr. W. J. Harris for continuing to allow the Association's Library to be housed at the Islington Central Library, to Mr. W. S. C. Rae for allowing the files of *The Library Assistant* to be stored at Fulham, and to Miss M. Marchant for superintending the arrangement of the same.

The Council further realizes its obligations to many others who have laboured in its interests during the year, and special mention should be made of the work of Miss R. L. Duménil, who continues faithfully to address the large number of envelopes which are required monthly for the despatch of *The Library Assistant*; to her and to each of the others the Council tenders its hearty thanks.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

EVAN G. REES,
Chairman.

WM. BENSON THORNE,
Honorary Secretary.

9th May, 1917.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1916-17.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance	20	16 6	Printing (including "The Library Assistant")	61	16 9
Members' Subscriptions	18	6 6	Postages (including "The Library Assistant")	21	16 5
Branch Subscriptions	24	13 0	Stationery	11	2 4
Advertisements in and Sale of "The Library Assistant"	53	16 4	Subscription to Library Association	1	1 0
Donations	6	16 0	Miscellaneous	0	2 0
Sale of L.A.A. Series	0	11 3			
Total Receipts	104	3 1	Total Expenditure	95	18 6
			Balance	29	1 1
				£124	19 7

Audited by us and found correct,

W. GEO. CHAMBERS,
Hon. Treasurer.

May 21st, 1917.

Auditors.

May, 1917.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

PROMOTIONS.

The congratulations of the Association are offered to the following colleagues who have gained promotion :

*P. W. BENNETT, of the Croydon Public Libraries, (Corporal, 16th Middlesex).

R. F. MIDDLEHURST, of the National Library of Wales, 2nd Lieutenant, Yorkshire Regiment. Lieut. Middlehurst has already seen considerable service at the Front.

MILITARY DECORATION.

Extract from a Supplement to The London Gazette, 17th April.

"Temp. Lt. Lawrence Inkster, R.W. Sury. R.—During a raid on the enemy's trenches, he handled his company with marked ability, and carried out the task allotted to him with conspicuous success. He subsequently reorganized the defence of the front line."

We tender our hearty congratulations to the brave lieutenant, who has been awarded the Military Cross, and to his father, the well-known Borough Librarian of Battersea.

WOUNDED.

***E. J. Cooper.**—As we go to press we learn that Lance Cpl. E. J. Cooper (Norfolk Regt.), of the Fulham Public Libraries, has been wounded in the wrist, and is now in Norwich Military Hospital. We are glad to learn that he is progressing satisfactorily.

KILLED IN ACTION, ETC.

We regret to record that Gunner *CLIFFORD BUCK (R.F.A.), of the Newcastle Public Libraries, died of pneumonia at the Northern General Hospital (Armstrong College), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 17th February. He died after only a few days illness while home on final leave before proceeding to the Front. He was buried with military honours.

***D. L. Strachan.**—The first of the Leeds Public Libraries Staff to make the supreme sacrifice was D. L. Strachan, who died at the 2nd Northern General Hospital, Leeds, the result of being blown up in a trench at Thiepval.

He obtained his commission in the 3/6 West Yorkshire Regiment at the end of 1914, and so rapid was his promotion that during the summer of 1916 he had attained the rank of Captain. Previous to joining the Army he had for several years taken a keen interest in the Boy Scout movement, and raised the first kilted troop in Leeds, and so great was the love of his scouts for him, that henceforth his memory will be kept green by their being known as "Strachan's Own."

As a member of the Committee of the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. his contributions to its deliberations were always very much to the point, and his serious outlook and high ideals were greatly appreciated.

At the meetings of the Branch he was always to the fore in the discussions and was certain to have something to say of a pertinent character.

As one who knew him well it only remains to say that there is a great sadness in the cutting off of a life which undoubtedly gave indications of great promise, and the younger ranks of the profession are the poorer for his untimely end.—G.W.S.

*Member L.A.A.

William Barton Young.—The late William Barton Young was elected a member of the L.A.A. in the year of its commencement, when an assistant in the Leyton Public Libraries. In 1897 he became a member of the Committee, on which he served until his appointment to the librarianship of Erith in 1906. He served the Association faithfully and attended its meetings with unflinching regularity, though his rather shy and retiring nature prevented him taking a prominent part in discussion. I well remember one evening, however, when at a meeting held at St. George-in-the-East Library with Mr. F. M. Roberts, the then librarian, in the chair, enthusiasm ran high on the subject of "Hobbies" which had been given as a topic in a prize essay competition, and Mr. Young arose to tell us how that he had recently taken up "volunteering" as a hobby, which rather surprised us as we did not imagine him to be a man to whom that kind of thing would appeal. How saddened we should have been could we have foreseen that he would lose his life on a battlefield! In those days Annual Dinners and other social events sometimes occurred, and nearly always Mr. Young's name appeared on the programme, for he possessed a very pleasing voice and enjoyed using it, losing his self-consciousness in so doing. He was a working member of the Committee, too, and carried through various arrangements for the Association at different times, one being an enjoyable trip up the Thames in a steam launch.

On his appointment to Erith he threw himself heart and soul into the work and strove to make the library achieve its utmost. It was not an easy task, there were many lions in the path and difficulties not a few; sometimes he was discouraged, but ever plodded manfully on, sparing himself little and always seeking new ways for increasing the usefulness of the institution he served. Lectures, Reading Circles, Exhibitions, Children's Rooms, etc., he brought into existence and maintained at the expense of much hard work. His Annual Reports always erred on the side of modesty, and when remonstrated with on one occasion for not making the most of one of his special efforts, replied that he preferred to under rather than to over-estimate results. He was a choirman at Christ Church, Erith, and a member of the C.E.M.S. He was also a Fellow of the Library Association and possessed four of its Professional Certificates, three of which were awarded "with merit." Probably he never knew the extent to which his labours were appreciated locally, but evidence of the high esteem in which he was held is provided by the fact that nine hundred persons representing every section of the community attended a Memorial Service arranged at Christ Church at which the preacher paid generous tribute to his kindly nature and sterling character. Similar respect was paid to his memory at a meeting of the Erith Council, and it is gratifying to know that it is the intention of the Council to erect a memorial tablet in the Library. Mr. Young joined the Forces last October and at the end of December was sent to France, where on April 10th he died from wounds received in action. He leaves a widow and one young child to mourn him.

In the noblest manner a choice spirit has passed away; the Public Library Service has lost a loyal and enthusiastic worker, while many people have lost a friend.—T.

At the last meeting of the Council the following resolution was ordered to be recorded on the minutes and a copy sent to Mrs. Young:—

"This meeting of the Council of the L.A.A. tenders its deepest sympathy to Mrs. W. B. Young on the death of her husband—William Barton Young—from wounds received on the battlefield in France. Mr. Young was a loyal and enthusiastic worker for the Association in its early days, and the Council desires to place on record its grateful remembrance of its indebtedness to him, as well as its pride in his complete sacrifice made in response to his Country's call."

PROCEEDINGS.

The April Reunion was held at 1, Wimpole Street, on Wednesday, 18th April, by kind invitation of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister. Following the usual custom at these meetings, the proceedings were quite informal, and the first part of evening was given over to social intercourse. Later, Mr. Sayers outlined the proposed programme to be carried out in connection with the Summer School to be held at Aberystwyth in August, reference to which was made in a recent Editorial. Mr. Hulme spoke of the scope and objects of the "Athenaeum Subject Index," and submitted galley proofs of the first Class Lists for 1916. He appealed for increased support of the libraries in the country, and asked for volunteers to assist in the work of indexing periodicals. Mr. Wharton exhibited a number of interesting views projected by the epidiascope, and commented briefly on them.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

The Eighth Meeting of the North-Western Branch of the Library Assistant's Association was held, through the kind permission of Mr. Archibald Sparke, Chief Librarian at the Reference Library, Bolton, on Wednesday, 21st February, 1917.

Prior to the General Meeting a Committee Meeting was held, the following being present: Messrs. R. G. Williams (Bolton), in the chair; T. A. Barnett (Manchester University), F. Helliwell (Rochdale), J. A. Merrishaw (Darwen), and Miss M. Quinn (Bolton). The Committee has again been depleted through Messrs. James Ross (Hon. Secretary), James Hindle (the Chairman), and N. J. Entwistle (the Junior Representative), being called to the colours. As Mr. T. A. Barnett is also expecting an early call, Mr. Merrishaw proposed and Mr. Helliwell seconded that Mr. R. G. Williams be appointed to the joint position of Acting Hon. Secretary and Acting Hon. Treasurer to the Branch for the duration of the war. So many male members of the Committee being with the colours, two members were elected to fill, temporarily, vacant positions on the Committee. Mr. R. L. Peacock (Manchester) and Miss Emily Hogarth (Bolton) were elected, the latter to take the place of Mr. N. J. Entwistle.

At the General Meeting that followed over twenty members and friends were present. Mr. T. A. Barnett presided, and the evening was devoted to a discussion of the subjects set for essays in Sections 5 and 6 of the Library Association for this year. The leaders of the discussion, Messrs. Merrishaw and J. D. Gifford (Bolton), were asked to outline the scope of the essays in their respective sections, to indicate lines of research to be followed, and the most profitable sources of information. Throughout care was taken to avoid infringing the rule of the Library Association. Each paper was thoroughly enjoyed, Messrs. Barnett, Williams, Helliwell, Merrishaw, Gifford, and Miss Quinn taking part in the discussion.

After a hearty vote of thanks being accorded to Mr. Sparke for his kindness in inviting the Branch to Bolton, to the leaders of the discussions, and to Mr. Barnett for occupying the chair, a most enjoyable and profitable meeting terminated.—R. G. W.

NEW MEMBERS.

Member: HARRY VICTOR **Spanner**, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Music Librarian, National Library for the Blind, 13, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.

Associates: HARRY **Barrett**, Central Library, Plymouth; Miss GRACE **Leveson**, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.